



North East Florida Woodturners

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to start by wishing Jim Ford, the owner of Woodcraft, all the very best for a speedy and full recovery. Jim is recovering from some surgery at the moment. Jim has been very generous to the club over the many years that he has hosted our meetings and I'm sure that everyone joins me in wishing him all the best.

This month I'm going to spend a bit of time talking about tools. Coincidentally, this is a subject both near and dear to Jim's heart. Tools. We all love them. We all want them. We are all convinced that we are just one tool away from greatness.

Since starting full time in my workshop I've spent an obscene amount of money on tools. It also seems to be never ending, there always seems to be another tool to purchase. Over the last couple of years I've found my thoughts on the subject changing and I wanted to share some of those thoughts in the hopes that it might help someone, in particular those club members who are just starting out.

The main shift that I have seen in my thinking is the move away from "cheap" tools to "quality" tools. I'm sure that we've all been down the "discount tool with a 20% coupon" road. I

know that I certainly have. The problem is that more often than not, that road just leads to disappointment. Tools that don't last more than a couple of uses. Tools that don't quite do the job you were hoping they would. Tools that leave you with a result short of the quality you were hoping for. Tools that are not safe.



By contrast, there is something special about using a well designed and made tool. Just picking it up and holding it gives you greater confidence in your ability to perform a task. Just knowing the care and attention that has gone into building the tool inspires you to take the same care and attention with your own work. Just feeling the sturdiness

of a well made tool leaves you confident that it will serve you for many years to come and that your money has been well spent.

Money. Unfortunately that is one of the biggest factors influencing our decision to purchase a "cheap" tool over a "quality" tool. We are all working with a restricted tool budget and simply put, you get what you pay for. Quality comes with a price. However, one thing I've found when contemplating the choice between two tools that on the face of it do the same thing, but one costs double what the other does, is that it really focuses the mind. Having made the decision to try and go for the highest quality tool whenever possible, the next question that arises is, do I really need this tool? I've been surprised when I stopped purchasing all the "want to

have” tools how much of the tool budget is left to put towards better quality tools in the “have to have” tool budget.

I see many beginning turners make the mistake of buying a full set of tools and compounding the mistake by buying a full set of cheap tools. You don't need the full set. I've got tools from my first set that I've never used. What's more, the only reason they are still in pristine condition is simply because they were never used. The couple of tools in the set that I did use have long been broken or discarded.

Take the time to speak with someone experienced and find out what tools you really need. Then buy the tools individually and spend the extra to get a quality tool. We can't place all the blame for poor work on poor tools but I have some tools that, in my mind, have made me a better turner. A lot of your frustrations with your abilities might simply stem from a poor choice of tool purchase.

I'll get off my soapbox now and close with a couple of reminders on upcoming events. Michael Mocho will be with us for a full day demonstration on Saturday, April 7th and a hands on workshop on Sunday, April 8th. There is still one spot open for the hands on, so if you are interested please contact Ed Malesky. This should be a great weekend of instruction regardless of your experience level and I would encourage everyone to attend the demonstration and consider signing up for the workshop. A big thank you to Ed Malesky for all the work he has put into making this event happen.

If you have a bowl or turned object to donate for either the AAW Empty Bowls, the AAW Beads of Courage or the Annual Woodcraft Mother's Day fundraiser, then please bring it with you to the April meeting. The deadlines for those events are approaching.

Thanks also to Gill Harding for taking the reins of the “Pens for the Troops” project. Gill has

inventoried the pen kits and blanks that were donated by George Guadiane and solicited more pen kits. He is looking for volunteers to help with the turning of the pens. So if you would like to turn a couple of pens to be donated to an active military member, please speak to Gill at the next meeting.

Lastly, we are still looking for a volunteer to take over the Membership Development position. Paul Rushton has done an amazing job of setting it up over the last couple of years and we are looking for someone to take over the position and build on his good work. If you are interested in helping the club with this important function, please speak with either myself or Paul.

I will see you all at both the Michael Mocho demonstration and the next club meeting on April 9th. Bring something to show at the Instant Gallery and if you have some extra wood bring it for the wood raffle!

Regards, Keith

Pens for the Troops

Recently due to the extreme generosity of George Guadiane



(vendor at the symposium and guest at last month's club meeting) our club has received a

large amount of pen making supplies. So, the club is sponsoring an effort to 'Turn pens for the troops'. We hope to have members turn 100 or more pens for us to donate to our active duty military. In order to reach this goal, we are asking for club member volunteers to turn a few pens to support this effort. We currently have around 60 kits and over 300 blanks, Woodcraft has offered to donate more trim line pen kits to augment our supply. Woodcraft also has a corporate program to facilitate getting the pens to the troops. Gill Harding is coordinating



this effort so if you are interested in helping out or have any questions please contact him at Gill@weharding.com.

Thank you George and Gill and Billy (Woodcraft)

Mentoring Program by Danny Aaron

I would like to thank Northeast Florida Wood Turners for offering the mentoring program. Six months ago I had never turned a piece of wood. This program - and particularly Barbara Hahn -- have given me the knowledge and skills to

develop my new hobby. Barbara has invested countless hours of her time to share her amazing talent with me -- I couldn't be more grateful. Under her guidance I have learned proper skills and techniques that I could never have developed on my own. Not only has she been a great teacher, but she has become a dear friend to both me and my wife.

I would encourage anyone new to wood turning to get involved with the mentoring program. We are fortunate to have some of the best mentors (turners) in the country involved with our club.

Thanks for everything!
Danny Aaron



Danny Aaron brought this nicely turned small plate he (with a few tips from Barbara) made to the March meeting. Looking good Danny! Thanks for sharing.

For more info about the mentoring program and a list of mentor volunteers, take a look at our website under the members area. Mentors are

grouped by geographic location so you can find a mentor who has the expertise you are looking for in a location convenient to you.

Committee Reports

National Demonstrations – Ed Malesky –

We're looking at the possibility of having Jimmy Clewes here for a demo and Hands-On in November. However, since we need to coordinate with some other club's schedules, it is most likely that we would have the demo all day on a Monday and the Hands-On on Tuesday. Please be prepared to talk about this possible scheduling arrangement at our April meeting.

Demonstrators – Tina Minahan

We always look forward to your input and ideas. Please contact either Daniel Callahan or Tina Minahan with any suggestions you may have.

Mark Wood

I will be demonstrating for the first time at our April club meeting and I hope everyone will attend. I encourage all of our less experienced turners to attend the meeting as my demonstration will be going through the steps involved in turning a bowl. I also encourage our experienced members to attend as I am certain there will be lots of questions and I welcome your assistance in answering any questions. Finally, for those who like to watch NASCAR I know you will want to attend as there is a good chance we will have a spectacular crash.

New Member Coordinator – Paul Rushton –

Another huge turnout for the March meeting, I counted 49 in attendance. It was great to see everyone. Seating was at maximum capacity.

If you can bring a folding chair, it would help. We have a limited number of metal folding chairs at Woodcraft and no available storage capacity if we were to buy more.



March 2018 meeting attendees

Six new members signed up in March. Welcome to new members

- Robert Stamer
- Paul Irwin
- Austin Nagamine
- Danny Rodriguez
- Jeff Reaves
- Brian Rice

Wood Raffle – Barbara Hahn – Take a minute and gather up a log or two to bring to the raffle! It cleans up your pile and makes a few dollars for the club!

Secretary – Paul Rushton – We could use volunteers to step into some of our leadership roles. We have some members doing multiple roles and it would be great if we could get some new people involved in leadership positions in the club. Here are a few roles that could be filled by a new volunteer. Talk to Paul or Keith if you want to get involved.

- Safety Coordinator
- Membership Coordinator



Barbara Hahn made this rosewood bowl, beautiful work Barbara!

March Meeting Show and Tell

Lots of pieces brought in this month



Roy Fuller shows off a nice lacquered and cloud painted piece he made.



A very adventurous Barbara also tried her hand at making one of those glued up colored pencil thingies. She shared a few lessons learned with the group such as - Don't try to sand it!



Don Penny shows a mortar and pestle he made.



Tina brought a shallow painted bowl she made. Painted tissue paper around the outer edge made for an interesting raised effect. Brightly painted a beautiful blue color.



Kay Sievert shows off a cup she painted and carved. Very nice work Kay.



Gill Harding got a piece of soapstone at the symposium and showed us this small cup he made. He says it turned easy with regular lathe chisels.



Barbara is having fun showing this platter she turned.



Don show off a piece he used alcohol ink to decorate. You continue to impress with your creativity Don!



Mark Wood brought this beautiful camphor bowl. Come to the April demonstration and Mark will demonstrate basic bowl making techniques. Mark is an expert bowl maker and will share his secret formula for how he gets such terrific looking finishes.



George Guadiane (symposium vendor and a guest at this club meeting) had this unique piece of burl that he showed. Wow, nice piece of wood. For more see: [Turned by George](#)



Mark Wood shows a chinese holly hollow vessel with some inlaid turquoise he made.



Norbert Ploetz made this wood burning image of a man's face. The man has talent!



Nancy O'Donnel brought in a couple of Gene's recent pieces, here's a hockey puck looking piece that's nicely chattered and painted.



Norbert also continues to wow us with his chip carving skills.



Ed Malesky brought numerous tall goblets and flower decorations. Ed then demonstrated how to make both of these items.

Women in Turning – AAW chapter liaison

Elizabeth Jensen-Forbell has volunteered to represent our club as the AAW representative for Women-In-Turning. Thanks for stepping up and taking a leadership role Liz.

Upcoming Events

April 7 – Michael Mocho demonstration

April 8 – Michael Mocho hands on class

April 9 – Monthly Club Meeting

Monday April 9th 6PM

WoodCraft Store

11160 Beach Blvd #121, Jacksonville, FL
32246

April 9th Meeting Demo: Mark Wood will demonstrate bowl making techniques.



Tina is determined to learn to turn eggs with her skew. Here's a pic of Tina's egg jar. Looks to me like you have mastered it Tina.

Kiln for Drying Wood



By Larry Zubke

To speed up the drying process and improve the odds of successfully preserving wood blanks, I built a drying kiln. A kiln provides a stable environment by maintaining a consistent temperature and humidity. For research, I spoke to woodturners in my local club and also found articles on the Internet. I discovered that there are no hard-and-fast rules for building a kiln, so I took several ideas and combined them into something that would work for me.

A small chest freezer that had quit working began the project. The metal walls with insulation between them help retain heat, making this kiln economical to run, even in wintertime. For safety, I installed a hasp and padlock on the door.

I removed the compressor and mounted casters on one side to stand the freezer up so it can move around easily. The vertical positioning of the door

allows easy access. An upright freezer or refrigerator might work better, but this unit takes up less space.

I installed open-wire shelves to support the green wood and to allow air to move freely within the kiln. A watertight light fixture with two 60-watt incandescent lightbulbs mounted on the base of the freezer provides the heat source. A thin sheet metal plate sits over the bulbs to protect them from dripping water. The metal also retains heat from the bulbs, slowly releasing it after the power is off. A greenhouse thermostat with a remote sensor monitors and regulates the temperature inside the kiln by automatically turning the bulbs on or off so that a consistent temperature is maintained. I drilled four ½" (13mm) holes in the bottom of the freezer below the lightbulbs and four matching holes in the upper rear wall. Heat convection from

the bulbs draws outside air into the freezer through the bottom holes. Warm humid air exits the freezer through the top holes.

After my first batch of wood was dry, I decided to install a 5" (13cm) fan, salvaged from computer equipment. This fan runs all the time and helps circulate the air, which speeds up the drying process. Without the fan, the first batch of wood took approximately seven weeks to dry. The second batch took only five weeks.



Mounted on the left-hand side of the kiln are the controls, power switch, and outlet, as well as the greenhouse controller. Note the padlock for safety.



A fan is mounted underneath the wire shelf.



The lightbulbs are mounted on the back of the kiln near the bottom, a sheet of metal covers the bulbs, and the holes are drilled through the bottom of the freezer.



The sensor for the greenhouse controller is mounted to the ceiling inside the kiln. The four holes drilled through the upper back wall of the freezer can be seen.



A 13" (33cm) cottonwood bowl, rough turned from green wood, weighed 5.09 lb (2.3kg) June 11 when it was placed in the kiln. It weighed 3.43 lb (1.6kg) July 15, and 3.42 lb (1.6kg) July 22. This bowl stopped losing weight, is dry, and ready to be finish turned.

I generally start by setting the temperature at 80°F (27°C) for the first week. At week two, I increase the temperature to 85°F (29°C). The third week, I raise the temperature to 90°F (32°C) and leave it there until the wood is dry. During the first few weeks, the humidity is 70 to 80 percent, so the air exiting the kiln often condenses on the outside of the holes. As the drying process progresses, the humidity continues to drop. The time it takes for the blanks to finish drying depends upon: the time of year the tree was cut, wood species, diameter, rough-turned wall thickness, storage-environment temperature, and humidity

To measure the wood's dryness, I weigh the largest and thickest blanks with a digital fishing scale and write the weight and date on each blank. At first, I check the blanks

monthly and then weekly as the weight loss begins to slow. When the blanks stop losing weight (moisture), they can be finish turned.

Larry Zubke has been an avid woodworker all of his life, learning from his father and other family members. Since joining the Dakota Woodturners, his focus shifted to woodturning.